

RECOUNT SEEN AS S-B TEAM WINS

Unified Telephones Demanded

Petitions Placed in Circulation

TORRANCE—A. B. Smith, district manager for Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co., dropped into the Press office the other day in response to an article printed about the effort of West Torrance Improvement Association to get unified telephone service.

Mr. Smith said that the Public Utilities Commission does not recognize municipal boundaries, in setting up the limits of various telephone exchanges.

We reply, to quote a reader living in south Torrance:

"The Public Utilities Commission's first job is to look out for the people."

"Why should it cost me from 10 cents to 13 cents to call another number in Torrance? Why should it be necessary to undergo the delay of going through several exchanges to get the desired party who lives within a few blocks of our home?"

The Press reports many responses to its effort to provide better telephone service, a unified exchange, and to sum up the attitude of the readers, presents this finding:

"Perhaps the telephone company and the Public Utilities Commission do not recognize municipal boundaries. But, did they ever see a city grow? Is it reasonable to expect that when Torrance is filled with homes, which it will be despite some efforts to the contrary, and has a population, say of 100,000 to 200,000 persons, that a quarter of the population will be served out of the Lomita exchange, another quarter out of the Menlo exchange, another quarter out of the Associated company's Redondo exchange, and the rest out of Torrance? Shall toll be charged for calls across the street in some instances? What a jumble! The exchange setup now is based upon serving a few sparsely settled communities. The fact is that Torrance has 1 1/2 square miles in which to grow. That is as much territory as has Long Beach, Pasadena or Glendale.

"Are we going to have a confused telephone service, with four separate exchanges serving Torrance?"

We asked Mr. Smith: "What plans have you for the future? How will you handle this situation. Perhaps you have an answer. Your company should be planning for unified telephone service now! What are your plans?" You cannot disregard the fact that Torrance is growing.

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Election Threats Exposed

"Power" politics apparently reached a new low level during the campaign for election of two members of the City Council, which ended Tuesday.

The facts being published here have been known to the Press, but they previously were unreported, lest revelation thereof might have served the instigators in the manner desired.

However, the facts are made known now, and we ask our readers: If similar occurrences take place in the future, should not the Grand Jury or other proper authorities be called into the picture?

1.—An effort to force Councilman Nick Draie, by threats against his job, to withdraw his support of Vic Benstead, due to Benstead's strength over Harvey Spelman.

2.—Two anonymous telephone calls to C. S. Maribella assertingly offering him \$500 if he would pull out of the Council race in support of Willys Blount, because he split the North Torrance vote needed by Blount. At least one professional gambler is known to have backed Blount, openly.

3.—The infamy aimed at Councilman George Powell, to get A. J. Patrosky to withdraw because he was a threat to Spelman. One instance was the accusation attempting to place Powell in the position of seeking the job of City Manager. Another was the Sunday meeting at which Powell was taken to task for permitting Patrosky to enter the race for City Council against Spelman.

These are but a few examples of bad faith in politics charged to the "POWERS THAT WOULD BE" and we ask our readers to judge for themselves as they watch progress of the municipal government in the next two years.

Big minds are needed for big jobs, and the job of City Councilman is a BIG one.

Death Noted

TORRANCE—Notice was received yesterday on the death of Mrs. Lee Abramson, mother of Mr. Harry Abramson of National Home Appliance Co.

Mrs. Abramson was a resident of Los Angeles.

WHERE OH WHERE can you buy such fine healthy poultry as TORRANCE POULTRY MARKET has for you? ... and (Continued on Page Three)



TORRANCE • LOMITA • HARBOR CITY • ROLLING HILLS • AVALON VILLAGE • PALOS VERDES PENINSULA
VOL. I, NO. 51 TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1950 54 3c

10,000 Circulation

B. Walker Urges Parking Meters



PETITIONS bearing hundreds of names asking that the city close the dump at Plaza del Amo and Western Avenue will be filed with the City Council next week. Here C. Ed Jones, right, Howard Percy, left, secure signature of Dennis Simmons, 1820 Santa Fe Avenue on the petitions. Residents want a park instead of a dump at the area.

City Council Given Mandate on Bus Line

people Tuesday. It is: Provide the city of Torrance with an efficiently operated municipal bus line.

For once, the people have had an opportunity to be heard on this subject, Press readers pointed out as they hailed the result of Tuesday's election and the stand of this newspaper on the sale of the bus lines.

"Let's end the sabotage of the bus lines, and get them to operating efficiently. We have confidence in City Manager George Stevens. We have confidence that he will take a hold of that situation and see that the lines:

1.—Serve all the people of Torrance with emphasis on attracting business to the shopping center of Torrance.

2.—Provide adequate schedules both local and interurban.

3.—Operate efficiently and profitably, bearing in mind that THE PUBLIC INTERESTS COME FIRST.

The people of Torrance want the bus lines, and are willing to assume in the general fund a deficit to provide good service.

Mr. Stevens, and gentlemen of the City Council: The people have spoken. Stop listening to Redondo Beach and other outside influence, and do your job.

Bring Torrance residents to Torrance with a good transportation system, and enable them to travel elsewhere on convenient schedules.

Lomitan to Lecture at Jaycee Meet

TORRANCE—The Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce will meet at the Fish Shanty for a dinner-business meeting starting at 7 o'clock tonight.

They shall have as their guest speaker, Mr. Frank Church. He has chosen as his topic "Origin and Progression of Time," this being a sequel to a talk given earlier to members of the organization. It is anticipated that he shall once again display various timepieces being both unique and antique.

New 'Copter Service Seen

Clearing the way for improved helicopter air mail service to Torrance and the Los Angeles metropolitan area, the Civil Aeronautics Administration granted authority to Los Angeles Airways to fly helicopters day and night under instrument conditions.

Heretofore, the helicopters were prohibited from operating either day or night when the ground was obscured.

15-MINUTE PERIOD Pilots of Los Angeles Airways now will be permitted to resort to instruments for periods not exceeding 15 minutes when moving through atmospheric conditions that obstruct vision.

Clarence M. Belinn, president of Los Angeles Airways, the nation's pioneer helicopter service, declared the CAA's action would have the immediate effect of speeding up delivery of air mail to Torrance, Los Angeles and other areas.

Belinn said the long-range effect of the CAA action will be to pave the way for helicopter passenger taxi service in metropolitan areas and step up federal action in equipping roofs of post-offices as landing sites for helicopters delivering mail.

To be Honored Here April 26

TORRANCE—Democrats are being invited to be present at a luncheon honoring the arrival of Jimmy Roosevelt in Torrance on Wednesday, April 26 at 1 p. m. at the American Legion Hall on Border avenue.

Roosevelt, Democratic candidate for office of Governor of California, and son of the late president Franklin D. Roosevelt, is making a tour of California cities and will make appearances in Los Angeles and Wilmington, in addition to Torrance.

'Nickel Grabber' Plan For Vanishing Lots Hit

Parking meters in Torrance? You and I don't want them! But Blaine Walker, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce does.

At least he proposed them to a meeting of merchants the other day.

His close friend, Bob Haggard, councilman, headed a fight successfully a few years ago to keep them out of Torrance, and the fact that the Chamber secretary now would come forward with the proposal indicates that perhaps Haggard has had a "change" of mind.

The Press is informed and dutifully informs its readers, that the merchants were discussing the parking conditions in Torrance.

Nearly all the big, downtown lots available for off-street parking are being taken up with new buildings.

This does present a problem, and the Press has recognized it several times, in recent issues.

But Blaine Walker thinks parking meters will solve the problem.

He did not say how installing parking meters would provide more parking space.

However, merchants of Redondo Beach and other cities will tell you how they will.

Here's how: They will provide more parking space by driving business to other cities and shopping centers. That leaves lots of empty parking space and empty stores.

"Is that what Walker wants, to drive our customers away?" asked one retailer. "Oh, for an aggressive Chamber of Commerce. Why can't we have one here?"

The Press calls attention of its readers to the issue of a few weeks ago in which it was suggested that the city build an automobile parking building on its property at Cravens and El Prado, install parking meters in the building and pay for it that way.

Keep the streets free, for they are free, customers urge. The police are doing a good job of enforcing the traffic laws, they agree.

Provide parking in a big off-street facility, pay for it with meters, but do not let parking meters get a toe-hold on streets of Torrance, one merchant said.

"We need to attract business here, not drive it away," he declared.

Top Heavy School Load Hit

Charges that the Board of Education is paying \$120,000 a year to administrative personnel who never come in actual contact with school children were voiced Monday night by A. Beasley, of Waveria, at the West-Torrance Improvement Association meeting.

Beasley said that the administrative personnel include some six assistants to Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools.

"Bureaucrats in Washington," said Beasley, "are just pickers compared with the bureaucracy which exists in our Torrance schools."

"We wouldn't mind," Beasley said, "if they build schools with the \$2,000,000 bond issue, but the Board of Education readily admits that when the schools are built they still will be on double sessions."

"The school board is only as good as the people it represents, and if the people know what the situation is, they should do something about it."

Blount Noses Out Benstead in Tally

Possibility of a recount of Torrance municipal election returns was indicated yesterday as final totals given by the City Clerk's office indicated that Willys Blount had nosed out Vic Benstead for City Council by the close vote of 1421 to 1414. Harvey Spelman was high man, elected with 1572 votes.

No candidate received a majority vote.

The recount possibility involved asserted irregularities in Precinct No. 7, at 1323 Beech avenue, where totals varied as much as 16 votes. Six votes were redistributed, and ten ballots unaccounted for between original returns and the final tabulation as turned into the office of City Clerk A. H. Bartlett.

The discrepancy is sufficient to change the positions of the Benstead and Blount.

A light vote was cast, the total being only 3346 out of a total of 8000 qualified electors.

City Clerk A. H. Bartlett was swept back into office, with 2187 votes to Robert Lee's 1491. Margaret Fordice was reelected City Treasurer by 1910 to 1735 votes.

The bus sale proposal was soundly defeated.

Council candidates fared as follows:

Benstead	1414
Blount	1421
George Downing	659
C. Ed Jones	593
C. Mirabella	224
A. J. Patrosky	749
Frank Schmidt	571
Harvey Spelman	1572

The vote on propositions was:

Proposition	Yes	No
1	1398	1821
2	2185	894
3	1993	1073
4	2049	994
5	1813	1189
6	1544	1254
7	1265	1407
8	1219	1537
9	1016	2016
10	1191	1666
11	1484	1437
12	1432	1344
13	1239	1539
14	1727	1042

School Board Vote Nears

TORRANCE—With the municipal election out of the way for another two years, interest is turning to the Board of Education election of May 19.

Three incumbent members, Dr. Howard A. Wood, Mrs. Evelyn Carr and Judge John A. Shidler, have filed for re-election.

Filing closes April 19, next Wednesday, and several candidates have been mentioned.

One is Councilman A. L. Jackson, who did not seek re-election to the City Council but who is said to be considering running for the Board of Education.

Another is J. A. Beasley, Waveria business man who has been reported in and out of the race several times.

B. J. Michaels, also of Waveria, is among those mentioned. The name of Frank S. Selover, who conceived and directed the successful campaign to withdraw from Los Angeles city schools, has been mentioned, but Selover told the Press that his duties as executive secretary of the Harbor Area Employers' Council keep him out of Torrance too much of the time. Besides, he said, he did not care to run against his friends on the Board at this time.

Democrats to Hold Potluck Dinner Meet

TORRANCE—Democratic Club will hold a potluck dinner meeting April 22 from 6:30 p. m. to 8:30 p. m. in the V.P.W. hall, according to C. Ed Jones, president.

It is expected, according to Jones, that the newly elected councilmen will be invited to attend as honored guest of the organization.

Those people interested in attending the meeting, but not the dinner will be welcome after 7:30 p. m. For dinner reservations you are asked to call Torrance 1040, 1550R, 130W, or 1672J.

Serving on the Dinner Committee are Elsie Smith, Rene Dean and Gladhall Jones. All Democrats are urged to attend this meeting.

Class Opens

TORRANCE—A free adult class in blueprint reading and engineering drawing started on Monday night, April 10, at 7 o'clock at the Torrance Evening High School.

Pin Ball Ordinance Readied

C. Douglass Smith, city attorney, is expected to have the ordinance banning the operation of pin ball and marble games from Torrance ready for the next meeting of the City Council, it was reported yesterday.

Gambling interests who belittled the effort of Parent-Teacher groups and the Press to outlaw the machines in Torrance felt secure in the belief that the issue was just an election "device," and that the campaign would be dropped.

"Absolutely not," one mother who said she had discovered that her child had spent his lunch money each day for many months on the marble games, said, "We are in this fight until every pin ball game or marble table is out of Torrance. They are considered gambling devices elsewhere, and if they are found to be such in other cities, they are gambling devices in Torrance, no matter what the gamblers themselves say."

City Attorney Smith has been polling other cities in regard to their ordinances against marble games. Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Santa Monica are among nearby cities where the marble games have been banned for years because of their use for gambling and due also to their bad influence on children.

Operators themselves will admit that the infamous "one ball" machine is nothing more than a "one armed bandit," as far as any skill in its operation is concerned.

The City Council voted unanimously a few weeks ago to instruct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance outlawing the games, and supporters of the anti-pinball movement have confidence that it will be adopted when presented at the next meeting, or in the near future.

Gambling interests are expected to oppose the ordinance vigorously.

Lack of Sign Brings Death To Motorist

TORRANCE—The Santa Fe railway's new unmarked Western avenue crossing south of Sepulveda boulevard, claimed its first life early Sunday.

And within a few hours after the accident, sign painters from Los Angeles department of public works were busy painting warning signs on the new pavement on either side of the track.

Pronounced dead on arrival at Harbor General Hospital was Betty Lerche, 24, of 1920 Torrance Blvd.

Slightly injured in the same crash was the driver of the auto, John E. Anderson, 29, of 1204 W. 13th street, San Pedro. He received first aid for cuts and bruises and was released.

According to Torrance Police Captain W. H. Haslam, the Anderson car smashed into the engine as the auto was proceeding south on Western avenue at 1:35 a. m.

While tracks are in full view from both north and south, there are no automatic signals, and no effort has been reported to secure them. The Pacific Electric however, already has signals on its Western avenue crossing, at Plaza del Amo.

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PRESS SPOTLIGHT

Photos by Photo Arts Studio By ALEX WHITE



Dr. R. A. Larsen The foundation for what was to be his life's work was laid by Dr. R. A. Larsen while still in his teens. However, the final degree was deferred for a good many years. Born in Chicago, Larsen attended elementary school there and was taught massaging and care for the sick by his registered nurse mother in her rest home.

In 1923 he moved to the Southland and attended high school at (Continued on Page Two)



Kenneth Olson For one of his age Kenneth Olson has packed a lot of action, drama and human interest into his years. Born on a Minnesota farm near Mankato, he received his elementary and high school education in the schools there and concurrently helped with all the work at the dairy which included delivering milk before school each morning.

In 1933, Olson's father disposed of his farm interests and Ken (Continued on Page Three)